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13 January 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Senator Clifford Case (R., N.J.) and Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Staffers Regarding the Recent Intelligence Estimate on Soviet Strategic Forces and the "B Team" Report

1. I accompanied Richard Lehman, D/DCI/NI, Howard Stoertz, NIO/Strategic Programs, and George Cary to a meeting with Senator Clifford Case (R., N.J.) and Senate Select Committee on Intelligence staffers Bill Miller, Hal Ford, Anne Karalekas, and Ted Ralston, to discuss the recent NIE 11-3/8 on Soviet strategic forces and the "B Team" report on the same subject. Lehman and Stoertz discussed at length the history and reasons for the establishment of the "B Team," which began with the concern of some PFIAB members that the NIE's on the subject did not accurately reflect Soviet intentions. There have been many press articles on the estimate and the "B Team" report, and Lehman and Stoertz refuted some of the points in the press accounts.

2. Miller had two primary criticisms of official actions in this regard. First, he felt the make-up of the "B Team" was so one-sided that the team could not reach an independent objective position, which is what PFIAB ostensibly sought. Lehman made it clear that the whole "B Team" exercise, including selection of members, was largely a PFIAB exercise and that the Intelligence Community had very limited options. Miller's second criticism was that the estimates do not factor in U.S. forces and U.S. defense planning. Miller viewed this as a function which the Intelligence Community could accomplish, so that the estimate would not only be an assessment of Soviet forces, but a net assessment of the strategic "balance of power." Lehman's view was that a net assessment would be a useful tool to the Administration, but suggested it could best be prepared by the National Security Council with an input on Soviet forces from the Intelligence Community, and a report on U.S. forces from the Department of Defense. Miller gradually seemed to accept Lehman's view on this point. Miller also seemed upset that the group of analysts preparing

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